

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 081030Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6962
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AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, BG, IN
SUBJ: FARAKKA AGREEMENT SIGNED

REF: DACCA 6338

1. THE FARAKKA AGREEMENT ON THE SHARING OF THE GANGES WATERS WAS SIGNED IN DACCA NOVEMBER 5 BY REAR ADMIRAL M.H. KHAN, CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF AND DCMLA, AND SURJIT SINGH BARNALA, INDIAN MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AOX IRRIGATION. AFTER THE SIGNING, BOTH KHAN AND BARNALA SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION AND UNDERSTANDING SHOWN BY THE TWO COUNTRIES AND THE WILLINGNESS OF EACH TO MAKE SACRIFICES FOR THE OTHER.

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2. THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT, AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, HINDI AND BENGALI, WAS PUBLISHED IN THE DACCA PRESS OCTOBER 6. THE FULL TEXT IS BEING POUCHED BY AIRGRAM. FOLLOWING ARE A FEW OF THE MAIN POINTS OF THE AGREEMENT:

A. BANGLADESH WILL RECEIVE 34,500 CUSECS AND INDIA WILL RECEIVE 20,500 CUSECS DURING THE 10-DW TDANEST

PERIOD OF THE DRY SEASON, APRIL 21 TO APRIL 30, WHEN
55,000 CUSECS ARE AVAILABLE;

B. THE SHARING OF THE GANGES WATER WILL LAST FROM
JANUARY 01 TO MAY 31 EACH YEAR. INDIA WILL RELEASE
SPECIFIED QUANTITIES OF WATER TO BANGLADESH FROM FARAKKA
AT 10-DAY PERIODS;

C. THE AGREEMENT WILL REMAIN IN FORCE FOR FIVE YEARS,
IT CAN BE EXTENDED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT AND IT WILL BE
REVIEWED AT THE END OF THREE YEARS;

D. A JOINT COMMITTEE SHALL SET UP TEAMS TO BE
STATIONED AT FARAKKA BARRAGE AND HARDINGE BRIDGE TO RECORD
THE DAILY FLOWS. THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO EXAMINE ANY
DISPUTES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT.

D. THE INDO-BANGLADESH JOINT RIVERS COMMISSION,
ESTABLISHED IN 1972, WILL INVESTIGATE A LONG-TERM SOLUTION
TO THE AUGMENTATION OF THE DRY SEASON GANGES WATER FLOW.
A REPORT WILL BE PRESENTED WITHIN THREE YEARS.

3. INITIAL EDITORIAL REACTION HAS BEEN FAVORABLE. (ALL
NEWSPAPERS HAVE NOT COMMENTED YET ON THE AGREEMENT AS NO
NEWSPAPERS WERE PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 8, FOLLOWING THE
HOLIDAY FOR THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF GENERAL ZIA'S
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REASSUMPTION OF POWER.) THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, THE
LARGEST ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY, SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT
"HAS AT LAST CUT THE GORDIAN KNOT OF THE ISSUE THAT
DRAGGED THE TWO COUNTRIES INTO DISPUTE FOR THE LAST
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED WITH THE
HOPE THAT THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WHICH BROUGHT THE
ACCORD WILL ALSO ENABLE A LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO BE FOUND.
NONE OF THE BENGALI-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS HAVE YET COMMENTED.
BERGESEN

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Message Attributes

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